

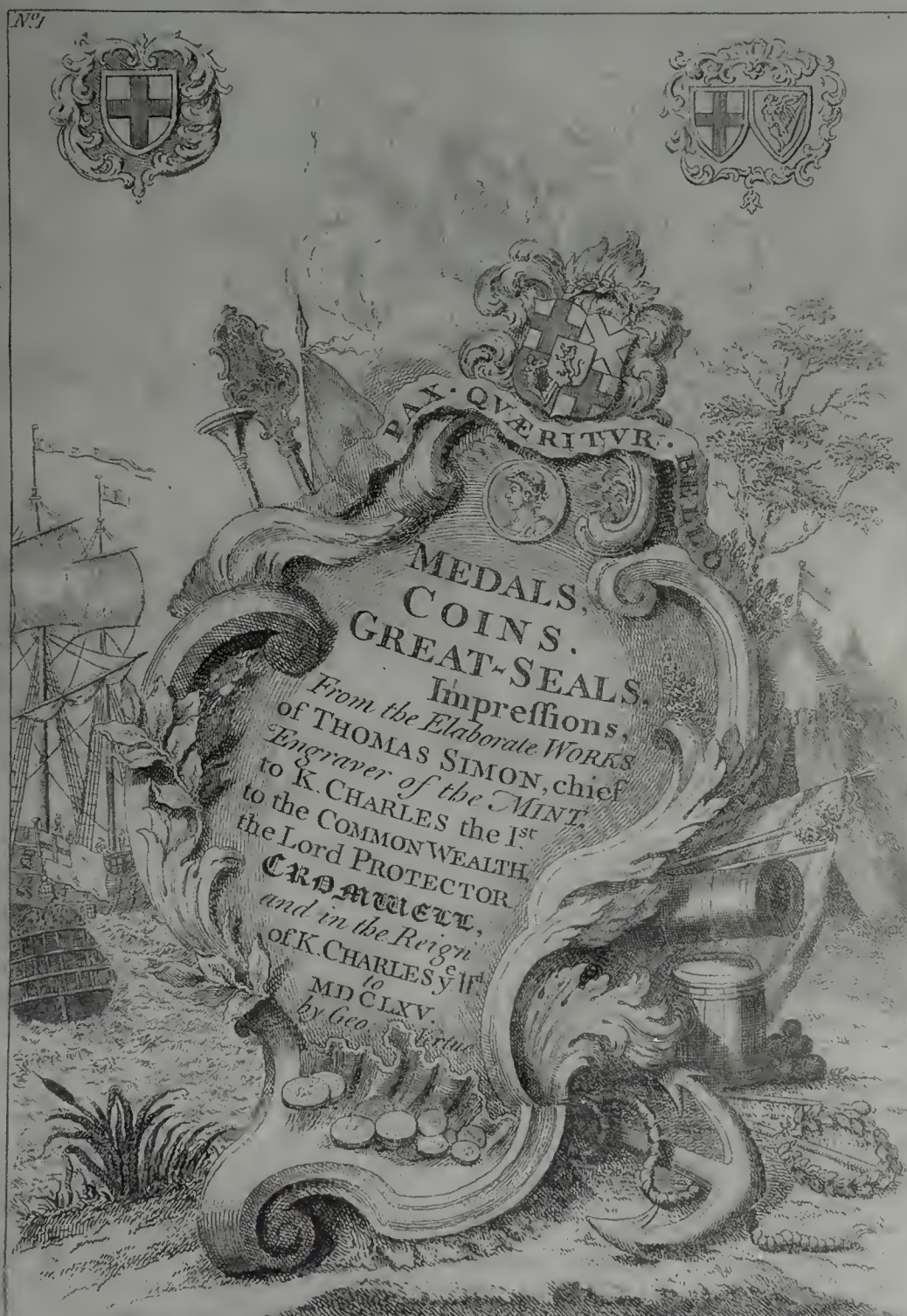
THE ASYLUM

Quarterly Journal of the
Numismatic Bibliomania Society

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Invented and Published by Geo. Vertue according to Act of Parliament Nov. 17. 1753.

“The worst thing about reading new books is that they keep us from reading the old ones.”

*Joseph Joubert
(1754-1824)*

The Asylum

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Front Cover: The title page from George Vertue's *Medals, Coins, Great-Seals, Impressions, from the Elaborate Works of Thomas Simon, Chief Engraver of the Mint to K. Charles I, to the Common Wealth, the Lord Protector, and in the Reign of K. Charles II to MDCLXV* (London, 1753). For more information about this work see the article by Lawrence Sekulich in this issue.

An Eighteenth-Century Magnum Opus

by Lawrence Sekulich

INTRODUCTION

Sometimes a particular book's provenance and beauty can match, or even surpass, the topic of the book. The history of monographs offers many instances where this has happened. A twelfth-century Book of Hours, or a nineteenth-century Kelmscott Press book are just two examples. The story of numismatic publication also includes books of this type. Perhaps the most famous example is Andrea Fulvio's *Illustrium Imagines* (1517). In eighteenth-century England, George Vertue produced his *Medals, Coins, Great-Seals, Impressions, from the Elaborate Works of Thomas Simon*,¹ one of the great numismatic books that fits this criteria [Figure 1].

GEORGE VERTUE

George Vertue (1684-1756) was an engraver, cataloguer, author, antiquarian, and coin collector. During his life he engraved hundreds of images for books such as Rapin-Thoyras' *History of England*, and Houbraken's *Heads of Illustrious Persons*.² He was appointed engraver of the Society of Antiquaries in 1717. As a cataloguer Vertue worked on the collections of Charles I and James II. His role as an author was quite important. Besides his numismatic work, he published a study on the life and works of Wenceslaus Hollar in 1745.³ After his death his forty volumes of notebooks on British art and artists were published by Horace Warpole.⁴ His coin collection was also sold after his death, at auction in May, 1757.⁵

MEDALS, COINS, GREAT- SEALS, IMPRESSIONS FROM THE ELABORATE WORKS OF THOMAS SIMON...

Combining his skills as an artist and a writer, with his reputation as a gentleman (he was also a member of Kneller's Academy and a

¹ G. Vertue, *Medals, Coins, Great-Seals, Impressions, from the Elaborate Works of Thomas Simon, Chief Engraver of the Mint to K. Charles I, to the Common Wealth, the Lord Protector, and in the Reign of K. Charles II to MDCLXV* (London, 1753).

² P. de Rapin-Thoyras, *History of England*, 4 vols. (London, 1732-47) and J. Houbraken, *The Heads of Illustrious Persons of Great Britain* (London, 1756).

³ G. Vertue, *A Description of the Works of the Ingenious Delineator and Engraver Wenceslaus Hollar, Disposed into Classes of Different Sorts; With Some Account of His Life* (London, 1745).

⁴ H. Walpole, *Anecdotes of Painting in England*, 5 vols. (London, 1761-1771).

⁵ John Ford [an 18th century auctioneer based in London, no relation to the 20th century American coin dealer of the same name] sale, 17-19 May 1757.

[13]

Medals of OLIVER CROMWELL.

PLATE XII. Above: Medal in Silver of General Cromwell, M.P. Profile; under the Shoulder, *The Sinner*, F. The Motto about the Head,

THE LORD OF HOSTS. Behind the Head, a Prospect of the British. The Reverse, is the Head of Camillus sitting; as is represented in the Parliament Great Seal 1648, and also on that Great Seal of the Commonwealth of England, 1651. This Medal, 'tis thought, was struck by *Oliver*'s own appointment; being the first, drawn for him, from the Life, by *Sinclair*, and is remarkable for his Likeness when Lieutenant General; as it does appear, by comparing it with a Picture drawn of him by *Walter*, his Painter, about that time. The Profile of this Medal, differing in some Respects from that Medal (R) copied by *Sinclair* also, from a curious Lamenting drawn by *Samuel Cooper*; the Original whereof is preserved in the Collection of the Duke of Devonshire. The minute Representation of the House of Commons in this Medal, is very extraordinary, but much more so, in another Medal (N) much less; which contains also the General's Head and Inscription, and on the Reverse, the Parliament sitting. Both these are frequently seen in Silver, and sometimes in Gold; and when fairly struck, and well preserved, do great Honour to the ingenious Artist who engraved these curious and memorable Medals.

Another oval Medal, (O) with his Head in Front, boldly projected. Above it is inscribed

The Day of this Medal was kept in the Family for there was an Issue in the County of Suffolk, where his Son *Arthur* once lived, which he had purchased by one of the *Merchants*, there was lately some, in pulling it down, the old Type in the Walls there.

OLIVER.



Figure 1

Fellow of the Royal Society), George Vertue was able to access coins from the finest cabinets of the day and draw upon primary and secondary sources of information. As a corpus, this book has stood the test of time. It is still cited by authors doing numismatic research of this period.

This rare first edition was published in 1753. It proved to be so popular that it was reprinted in 1780. This particular copy of the book, with its fine engravings by the author, burgundy morocco binding, gilt edge trimmings, and hand made marbled end papers is in itself a work of art. Bookplates from the library of John Trotter Brockett [Figure 2] and also the Mainsforth Library [Figure 3] add to the charm and history of this volume. Considered by some as a fundamental publication of numismatic literature, this particular example last appeared at auction in 1988 from the library of Peter Seaby.⁶

THE PETITION CROWN OF CHARLES II

What makes this work stand out among eighteenth-century numismatic books is the beauty of the plates. Possibly one of the most beautiful of all of Vertue's illustrations is that of the Petition crown of Charles II [Figure 4]. The balanced arrangement of the seal of the Order of the Garter, surrounded by portraits of the Simon brothers and the Petition Crown of Charles II, is a delight to the eye. This plate is dated 1751. Plate VII, the only other dated engraving, bears the date 1744. This would imply that Vertue took nine years to create all thirty-eight plates. By self publishing the book, George Vertue avoided deadlines and compromises.

PROVENANCE

The earliest known owner of this copy of the work, John Trotter Brockett (1788-1842), was an attorney by profession and an antiquary by avocation. He had a fine collection of books, coins, and medals. His numismatic cabinet was sold over a fourteen day period by Sotheby's in 1823.⁷ As an author he wrote several numismatic pamphlets, including a description of his own Roman gold collection in 1822.⁸

Mainsforth Hall was built circa 1625 by Ralph Hutton. Records from County Durham, where the mansion was located, report several distinguished owners to the 19th century. The hall was neglected in the 20th century and demolished in 1962. While it is not certain that this is the site of the Mainsforth Library, it seems probable that, like other great houses of the 17th and 18th centuries, it contained a library.

The final known owner of this volume was Peter Seaby (1920-

⁶ Glendinning's sale, 17 November 1988, lot 47; ex P.J. Seaby.

⁷ Sotheby's, June 4-7, 9-14, 1823.

⁸ J.T. Brockett, *Selecta numismata aurea imperatorum romanorum ex museo Iohannis Trotter* (New Castle, 1822).



Figure 2

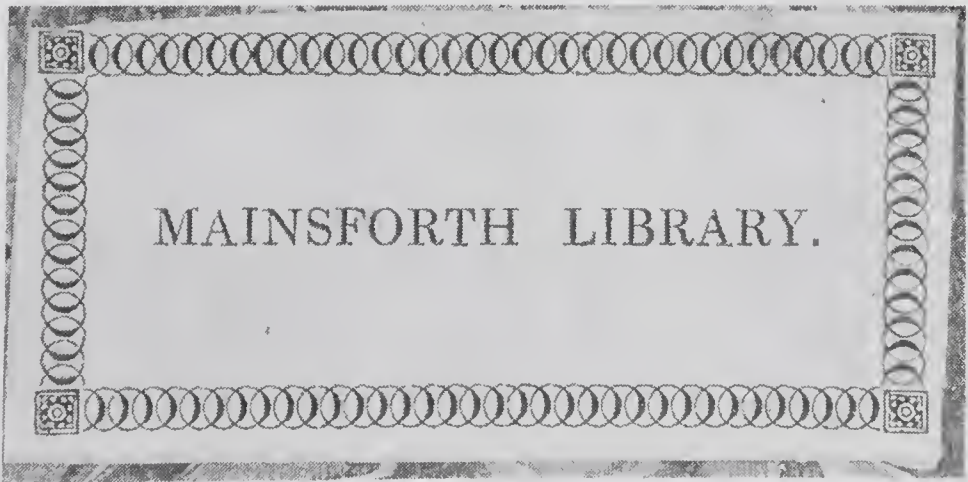
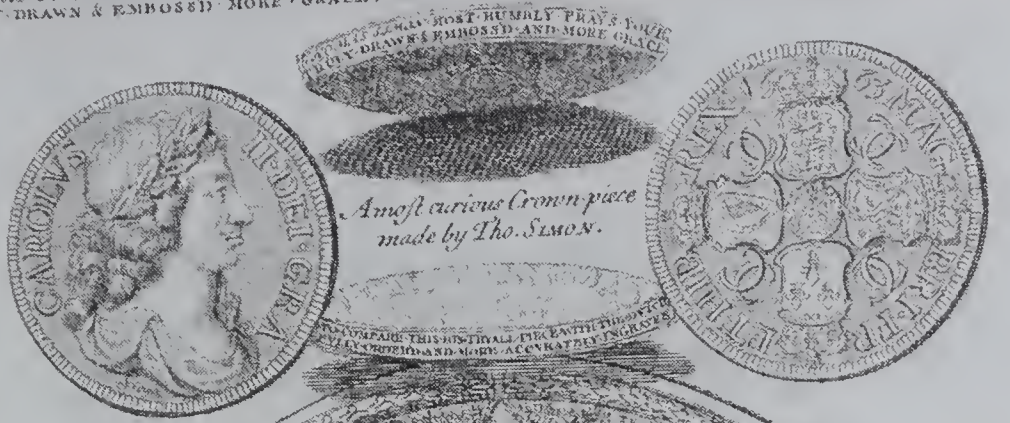


Figure 3

THOMAS SIMON MOST HUMBLY PRAYS YOUR MAJESTY TO COMPAIRE THIS HISTORICAL PIECE WITH THE DUTCH AND IF ABOVE
TRULY DRAWN & EMBOSSED MORE GRACE: FULLY ORIGINALLY AND MORE ACCURATELY INGRAVEN TO RELIEVE HIM XXXV



A most curious Crown piece
made by Tho. SIMON.



The Great Seal for the Order of the Garter.



A. SIMON.

The Ingenious Artists,
Brothers,
Abraham SIMON
& Thomas SIMON.
An^o. 1663.



T. SIMON.

G. 1. 1751.

Figure 4

1992) a member of the family which founded the famous coin dealership in London. He was the author of numerous articles on medieval English coins, most notably his study that firmly established the type sequence of the coins of Harold, Harthacnut and Edward the Confessor and his study of the chronology of the coinage of Henry I.⁹ When and where he acquired this work is unknown. None of Seaby's published works deal with the seventeenth century so it is likely that he acquired it as part of his interest in antiquarian numismatic literature.

CONCLUSION

This is the kind of book that bibliophiles greatly admire. Its monumental title correctly forecasts a superior publication. Beautifully bound, handsomely illustrated, and written in an elegant style by an expert, George Vertue's tribute to Thomas Simon's numismatic art is truly a magnum opus — a great work. In addition to this it has a long history that associates it with some important numismatic researchers.¹⁰

⁹ P. Seaby, "The Sequence of Anglo-Saxon Types 1030-50," *British Numismatic Journal* 28 (1955-57), pp. 111-146 and idem., "Henry I Coin Types: Design Characteristics and Chronology," *The Yorkshire Numismatist* 1 (1988), pp. 27-44.

¹⁰ This article is based upon the author's exhibit at the 2004 American Numismatic Association Convention. The author would like to thank all those who provided ideas and criticisms which have been incorporated into the final study.

Coinage On Postcards: The Cambist's Glorious Last Hurrah

by David D. Gladfelter

I: Hugo Semmler and His Distributors

The exchange rates used in today's international economy to convert your currency into those of other nations are determined by day to day market forces. You can look up these rates for major world currencies in the *Wall Street Journal*. They fluctuate daily. Purchases made abroad today in euros, rupees or yen and charged to your credit card will appear in dollars, based on these fluctuating exchange rates, on your monthly statement when you return home.

A century ago, exchange rates for major world currencies were established differently. Pegged to a gold standard, on which many currencies were still denominated, exchange rates were more stable than today. Monarchs still ruled some of these countries, and placed their portraits on their circulating gold coinage. The Portuguese "Joe," for example, took its name from the portrait of King Joannes V thereon. In 19th century Europe, to stabilize exchange rates even further, nations entered into treaties forming the Latin and the Scandinavian Monetary Unions for the purpose of adopting gold and silver coinages of equivalent fineness, weight and value. Nonmember countries adopted the monetary unions' standards for consistency. How did bankers of that era determine what your marks, francs and dollars were worth in kroner or escudos? They looked it up in a "cambist"¹ or currency guide such as Gutttag's *Foreign Currency and Exchange Guide*.

In 1904, an enterprising printer in Magdeburg, Germany began issuing a series of postcards with embossed metallic-ink images of the coins of different countries on them. What made Hugo Semmler's coin cards different from those of the other makers was the presence of exchange rate tables on them. On each card was the country's flag in full color, with the caption "for education about international coinage." Before the year was out, Semmler had published coin cards for 20 countries, primarily European but also including the United States, Japan and five South American nations. Two different cards were issued for Japan. Sweden and Norway, then under the same king, shared a single card, until this political arrangement ended after which each nation had its own Semmler coin card. The earliest cards were numbered in sequence.

¹ From the Italian *cambista*, from *cambio*, meaning exchange. A.R. Frey, *Dictionary of Numismatic Names* (New York, 1947).

Inscriptions were printed in three languages, German, French and English.²

To all appearances, Semmler's cambist postcards were wildly popular with travelers. They became the collecting fad of the day. On one of them, a correspondent wrote: "This is a novelty. Thought perhaps you would like it for your collection." They were mailed not only throughout Europe, but to and from Australia, the Caribbean, the Middle East, South Africa, the Bosphorus and the States. Wherever tourists went, they bought and sent postcards showing the coinages used in the places visited.

Over the next four years, the number of country cards in the Semmler collection increased to 45 and the languages of the inscriptions expanded to include Dutch, Russian and Czech.³ Semmler operated printing plants in Saxony and Bavaria as well as in Magdeburg. He also apparently licensed his designs, on which he obtained two German patents, to other printers and jobbers. But as his success arose, so did his desire for anonymity. On his later cards he replaced his name with the initials H.S.M. (for Hugo Semmler, Magdeburg), and eventually removed the initials as well.

Enter Fortuna Hornung, a Viennese stationer, with a new marketing idea: coin card albums and books.

Hornung was the proprietor of Papeterie Fortuna, a shop located at Josefstädterstrasse 82 in Vienna's historic "inner ring" District 8. She imported and stocked the Semmler coin cards, placing her ink-stamped advertisement on them. It advertised for sale, sets of the 45 cards with choice of text in German, French or English, under the title "Die Geldsorten aller Länder" (The Coinage of Different Countries). The sets could be obtained in folders, albums or bound books; I have examples of each in my library. Some of the sets came with a descriptive brochure explaining that

The coinage cards reproduce with the greatest possible accuracy the originals of the various pieces of money, at present current in the different countries, each coin which is shown being an exact reproduction of the original. The value of the coins is given in the accompanying tables: — the value of the gold pieces being reckoned according to the amount of pure gold contained, and, in the case of countries whose financial

² Discussion of varieties of each country's cards is beyond the scope of this article. See D.D. Gladfelter, "A Trial Classification of Embossed-Coin 'Cambist' Postcards," working draft dated March 25, 2003, of an unpublished manuscript lodged in the American Numismatic Society library. This manuscript is based on the collection of the late Jonah Shapiro.

³ A chronological list of the country cards appears at the end of this article. Presumed dates of issue are based on postmark dates as well as dates appearing on the coin images.

positions are sound, the nominal or face value of the silver coins is indicated. ...

Although the books, folders and albums are not dated, Kirby Brown's assumption that they were issued circa 1910 is doubtless correct.⁴ My copy of the book version is a special edition for the United States market containing three special cards in addition to the standard complement of 45 cards. The specials show portraits of William Howard Taft (U.S. President 1909-1913), Pius X (Pope 1903-1914) and Kaiser Franz Joseph I with the special "Jubilaüms-Münzen" issued in 1908. Other internal evidence supporting a c.1910 date of issue includes the updated Transvaal card with the Red Ensign added to the flag of Kruger's Republic, to recognize formation in 1910 of the Union of South Africa. However, the Portugal card still bears the flag of the monarchy which was succeeded by the Republic in 1910.

Interestingly, the introductory brochure freely admits that "money values are subject to constant fluctuations as may be seen by a glance at the market quotation of the daily rates of exchange," and that "the tables on the cards cannot be altered from day to day, like the exchange lists." It also admits that "gold coins are only rarely met with in ordinary business in most countries." These comments recognize a trend, even then, away from fixed exchange rates, and lead me to the view that the chief purpose of the coin card books must not have been to facilitate exchange of currencies, but to promote tourism.

A similar book containing Semmler coin cards, produced under different auspices at about the same time, is simply titled "The World's Coins" (No. 38 in Brown's bibliography). While anonymously published, it was evidently not by the Austrian Hornung, as it is stamped "Made in Germany." It contains a nearly identical brochure and has tissue guards to protect the embossed coin images.

I suppose that one could classify these postcard books as "exolit," having the same relationship to numismatic literature that "exonumia" has to numismatics. I do appreciate our editor's open-mindedness in including these articles within the scope of what belongs in *The Asylum*.

To be continued.

⁴ K.W. Brown, "A Study of Embossed Coin Books," *The Asylum* 2/3 (1984), pp. 5-7, 10-11; *idem.*, 2/4 (1984), pp. 18-26. The Hornung book is no. 35 in Brown's bibliography.

List Of Country Cards Produced by Hugo Semmler.

First group, circa May 1904, with numbers:

- 1 — Germany
- 2 — Austria
- 2a — Hungary (part of Austro-Hungarian monarchy)
- 3 — Italy
- 4 — Switzerland
- 5 — France
- 6 — Russia
- 7 — Sweden and Norway (later individual cards)
- 8 — Denmark
- 9 — Belgium
- 10 — Netherlands
- 11 — Great Britain and Ireland
- 12 — U.S.A.
- 13 — Japan (gold yen)
- 14 — Japan (silver yen)
- 15 — Brazil
- 16 — Argentina
- 17 — Uruguay
- 18 — Chile
- 19 — Peru

Second group, c. late 1904-early 1905:

- Turkey (gold and silver coins)
- Turkey (billon coins)
- Mexico
- Transvaal
- Portugal
- Spain

Third group, c. 1905-1908:

- Bulgaria
- China
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- Finland
- Greece
- Morocco
- Persia (Iran)
- Romania
- Serbia
- Siam (Thailand)
- Tunis (Tunisia)
- Venezuela

British India and Ceylon (Sri Lanka)

Straits Settlements (Singapore, Malaya, Panang and Malacca) and
Hong Kong

Dutch East Indies (Indonesia)

German New Guinea (Papua)

German East Africa (Tanzania)

Papal States (Vatican City — included only in special editions)

Candidate Bios for the 2005 Election of Officers for the Numismatic Bibliomania Society

Editor's Note:

Below are the statements sent in by all those who wished to stand as candidates for the NBS Board of Trustees for 2005-2007. Needless to say, they form a truly impressive group and the voter's choice will not be any easy one. I have edited these statements as little as possible, since it is my belief that in something this important the candidates should be allowed to speak for themselves.

The offices and candidates are as follows:

- President — Pete Smith
- Vice President — Dan Hamelberg
- Secretary/Treasurer — David Sundman
- The NBS Board — John W. Adams, Darryl Atchison, Philip J. Carrigan, Dan Friedus, Karl Moulton, Joel J. Orosz, W. David Perkins, P. Scott Rubin, David Sklow. [Six to be elected]

I have listed the candidates alphabetically with the office for which they are standing following after the name. Please remember that your ballot must be received by July 15, 2005, so do not put off sending it.

John W. Adams (Board)

Over the 50-odd years that I have collected, my specialties have been researching provenience on 1794 large cents, United States auction catalogues, historical medals and a fairly large library on the general subject of history during the colonial period. In addition to being a member of various numismatic organizations, I am a fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society and of the American Antiquarian Society.

Darryl Atchison (Board)

I was born in 1964 and have been collecting coins since the early 1970s when I joined the Kent Coin Club in Chatham, Ontario. My initial interest was in Canadian large cents but, being a somewhat fickle collector, my interests have changed many times over the years. I am enamoured with Canada's copper colonial tokens but also collect Canadian numismatic militaria and every conceivable type of numismatic item depicting Canada's national parliament buildings in Ottawa, Ontario.

In the mid-1990s I became interested in Canadian numismatic literature as a result of a research project I was working on at the time and for the past ten years I have been editing the new *Canadian Numismatic Bibliography* — a text which is currently in its final production stages. As a result my numismatic collections have suffered greatly — since practically all of my annual numismatic budget is now spent on literature. “Buy the book before the coin” has definitely turned into “Buy the book instead of the coin” in my case.

I joined the Society in 1996 or 1997, shortly after moving to Ireland with my wife, Fiona. Since then I have had the pleasure of corresponding with many of our members and I am always astounded at the information which can usually be acquired through one phone call, letter or email. We have all heard of the six degrees of separation and nowhere is this more true than the NBS. In fact, you can usually get to your final destination in far fewer than six steps. Collectively, our membership is the most knowledgeable and helpful group of people you could ever hope to meet.

Frankly, I am honoured to be asked to stand for election to the NBS Board of Trustees. While I believe that we have a great organization, this does not mean that we should rest on our laurels. For example, I am very concerned that many collectors perceive our Society to be elitist and believe that we need to be more inclusive and welcoming to new members. In fact, we should cultivate new members by planting the bibliomania seed and nurturing its growth and development. I believe we also need to find a way to offer better service to our international members who may feel somewhat excluded from the Society’s activities. I am a firm believer in the policy that “If you are not part of the solution, you must be part of the problem” and whether I am elected or not, I will do my utmost to assist the Board in addressing these issues as well as any others which may arise in the years ahead.

Philip J. Carrigan (Board)

I have collected coins since I was a child. Twenty years ago I collected literature but this amounted to saving catalogues and price lists as I received these. Fifteen years ago I began to purchase what I was missing and add other items I never had. I joined NBS after attending meetings at ANA. I met individuals who had a deep interest in literature. I want NBS to serve literature users and collectors and to serve as a meeting place and resource for these parties.

Dan Hamelberg (Vice President)

Dan Hamelberg was born in 1946 and raised in the Chicago area. He received a B.S. in journalism from the University of Illinois in 1968. After graduation he worked for a Champaign, Illinois newspa-

per for about 5 years. He became involved in commercial real estate in 1972, and quit the newspaper business the next year. He started his own company in the late 70's to acquire and manage income property (apartments and shopping centers). The company is now known as the University Group.

Dan started collecting coins when he was 10 years old. After some periodic delays (high school, college, starting a business, etc.) he finally focused on a collection of first year of types from the Philadelphia mint. The collection is now complete in all metals, with several coins as finest known. From time to time he may upgrade a bit, but it is now essentially complete.

Dan began collecting numismatic literature in the early 80's. His first major sale was the Lester Merkin sale by George Kolbe. It has been a great adventure since then, and now it appears that he has put together a library of American numismatic literature that is second only to the ANS. They have a few early auction sales and broadsides he does not have, but he has a greater number of American numismatic sales overall.

Dan Freidus (Board)

I started collecting coins 30 years ago and began acquiring numismatic literature a few months later. I've been a member of NBS since its founding in 1980, about the same time I started specializing in numismatics of 18th century America (i.e. colonial and early U.S.) and, of course, related literature. Since 1995, I have been writing the "Colonial Americana" column for *Coin World*. I am a regional VP of The Colonial Coin Collectors Club and former editor of *The C4 Newsletter*. I was involved in C4's successful publication of Tony Carlotto's book *The Copper Coins of Vermont*.

Being an NBS Board member would allow me to repay the organization for the benefits I've had during 25 years of NBS membership. I would bring to the Board my experience as a longtime collector and NBS member as well as the perspective that comes with being a former professional indexer. I'd work for greater outreach to enlarge membership (especially among junior members). I would also facilitate communication among members by encouraging NBS to set up an email discussion group for members (to complement, but not replace, the single weekly format of *The E-sylum*).

Joel J. Orosz (Board)

I am seeking re-election to the NBS Board of Trustees because I believe that my experience can be a valuable asset to the Board and to the club during a time of transition in our leadership. I am charter member #59 of the NBS, Life Member #3 and currently the longest serving member of the Board, having served continuously since the

late 1980s. If elected I will work to increase membership in the NBS, to seek a broader base of authors for *The Asylum*, and to augment the already substantial position of the club. Finally, I will serve as the "institutional memory" of the NBS, both as a Board member if elected, and as the club's appointed historian.

W. David Perkins (Board)

Dave Perkins is a collector, student and researcher of the early United States silver dollars 1794-1803. Dave also collects tokens and numismatic literature, especially books, catalogs and documents pertaining to the great early silver dollar collections and collectors.

Dave was a consultant to Bowers & Merena in the cataloging of the Eliasberg early silver dollars and has cataloged and consulted on early dollars for a number of numismatic auction firms. Dave was a major contributor to and wrote the introduction for Jules Reiver's new book *The United States Early Silver Dollars 1794 to 1803*. He has spoken on the early dollars at a number of ANA Numismatic Theatres and has taught a class on the dollars at the ANA Summer Conference.

Dave is a past Secretary/Treasurer of NBS. In addition to NBS, Dave is a member of numerous numismatic organizations and clubs including the ANA, ANS, JRCS (LM), NLG, EAC, TAMS, CWTS (LM) and others. Dave is an officer and is Treasurer of the John Reich Collector's Society. He has authored over two dozen articles for the John Reich Journal as well as articles for the *The Asylum*, *TAMS Journal*, *Civil War Token Journal*, *NOW News* and *Talkin' Tokens*. His articles have won literary awards from NLG, JRCS, CSTS, TAMS and NOW. His interest in Civil War Store Cards (or tokens) started with a discovery that his great-great grandfather issued two Detroit, Michigan Civil War tokens in 1863.

P. Scott Rubin (Board)

Scott is currently a member of the NBS Board of Directors, he has served as a President of NBS during the 1990's and has been on the Board since the late 1980s. Scott collects numismatic literature with an emphasis on United States auction catalogues. Scott is recognized as a numismatic researcher in many fields of U.S. coinage.

Scott is a life member of NBS and ANA. He is also a member of the following numismatic organizations, EAC, ANS, Medal collectors of America and NLG. He has been honored by membership in The Rittenhouse Society.

Scott has contributed to numerous books, organization publications, newspapers and auction catalogs. A sample of these are *The Red Book*, Walter Breen's *Encyclopedia's of Half Cents and Large Cents*, a number of Q. David Bowers books, Kam Ahwash's *Encyclopedia of*

United States Liberty Seated Dimes, *Coin World's Almanac*, ANS 1st COAC publication, *The Numismatist*, *The Asylum*, *Coin World*, and auction catalogues by New England, Stack's, Bowers & Merena among others.

Scott has been a speaker at a number of numismatic organizational meetings or conventions, such as ANA, ANS, PAN, The New York Numismatic Club and NBS.

David Sklow (Board)

I am seeking election to a seat on the Board of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society for the forthcoming term. I feel with my background in numismatic literature, over almost thirty years, I can bring a useful presence to the Board.

I have been a numismatic literature dealer off and on since 1979. I am a charter member of the Society as well as a twenty-five year member of the American Numismatic Association. I am a member of the Numismatic Literary Guild and I have had articles published in *The Asylum* and *The Numismatist*. I am past partner in the Money Tree numismatic literature auctions, where I was the cataloguer for several auction sales. I am presently employed by the ANA as a numismatic researcher and I am also on the organization's library committee. One of my goals is to encourage members to display exhibits at national conventions. I would also like to work toward a closer relationship with the ANA and ANS libraries and literature programs. I would also want to expand the advertising base for the Society's publication, *The Asylum*. Thank you for your support.

Pete Smith (President)

I am active in a dozen numismatic organizations. I have served two terms as president of the NBS. I am a former president of my local coin club and historian for the Early American Coppers Club. I am an ANA district delegate and regularly attend ANA conventions as an exhibitor and judge.

I believe the club is healthy as most members like the quality of offerings in *The Asylum* and *The E-Sylum* and our programs at the ANA and regional conventions. I welcome comments and suggestions from members.

David Sundman (Secretary/Treasurer)

David Sundman, president of the Littleton Coin Company, of Littleton, New Hampshire, first learned about the fascinations of the rare coin field during his grade school years in the mid-1950s. He spent many afternoons after school and many Saturdays and each

summer vacation working for his father, stamp and coin dealer Maynard Sundman. Maynard and his wife Fannie Sundman had founded the family firm, Littleton Stamp Company in 1945, and soon branched out into numismatics in 1949. David Sundman enjoyed both philately and numismatics, and naturally developed a strong interest in history. He graduated from Gettysburg College with a BA in History in 1970, and several years later rejoined the family firm in 1972, by then employing more than a hundred. Today the firm is staffed with 320 full-time associates, and is a major employer in the town of Littleton.

A lifetime member of the American Numismatic Association (ANA), Sundman celebrated his 25th year of ANA membership in 2004. In 2001, he received the ANA's Glenn Smedley Memorial Award, recognizing those who have worked to better the association. In 2003, he received the ANA's Medal of Merit for his active support of the association's educational and promotional efforts. Mr. Sundman has received the ANA's top recruiter award five times, having recruited over 5,000 new members to the ANA to date.

A member of the American Numismatic Society since 1984, Sundman recently became a Life Fellow. He also is a member of the Professional Numismatists Guild, and received their Significant Contribution Award in 2001 for his consumer protection efforts. Sundman joined the Numismatic Bibliomania Society in 1982, and is now a Life Member.

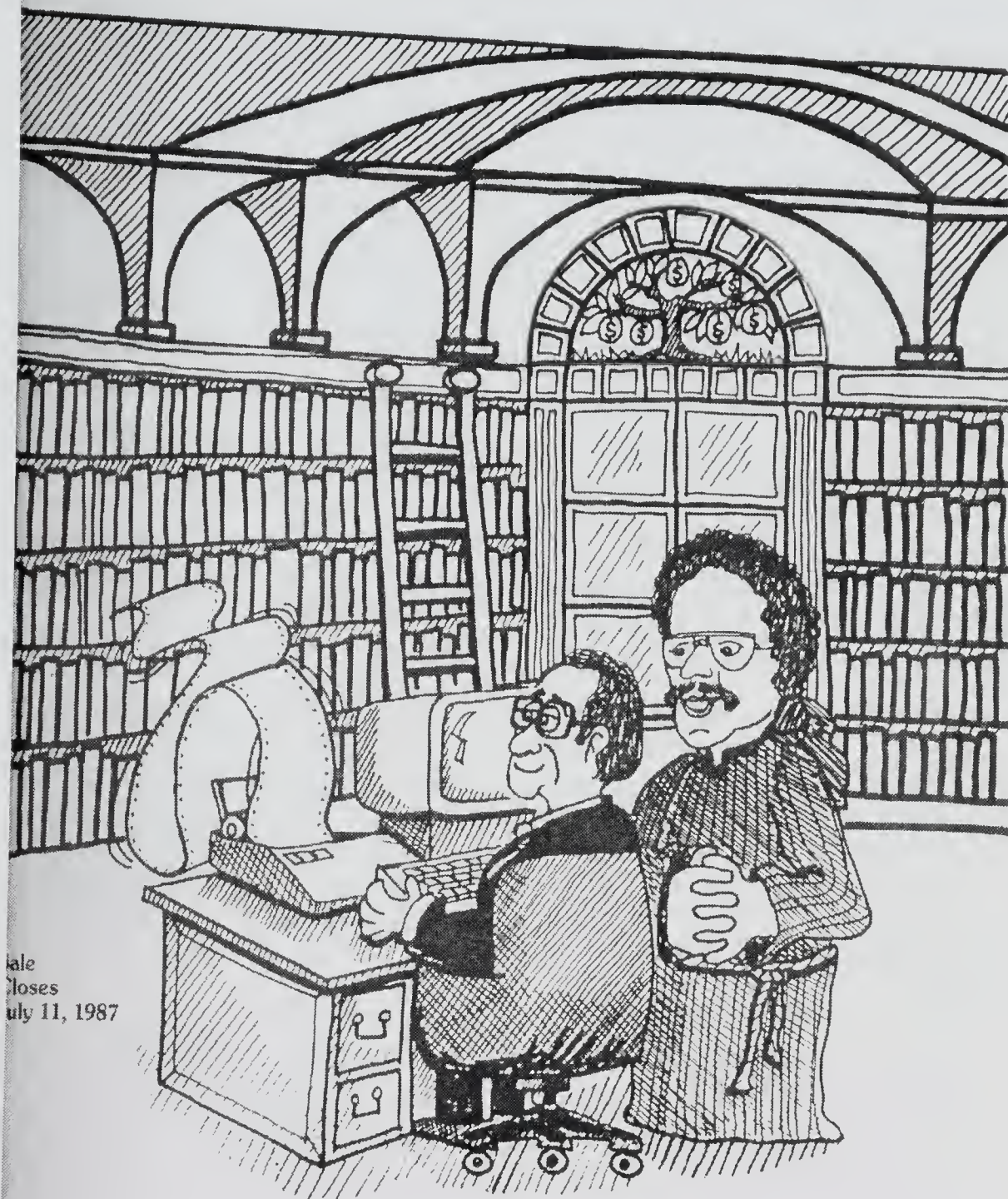
The Money Tree Chronicles, As They Were by Myron Xenos

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. Where the Dickens did I get that line from? Actually, it was 1985, and I was wandering around a local coin show in Cleveland, and the times were fairly decent. The heady times of 1979 and 1980 were still fresh in everyone's minds and most people in numismatics were somewhat flush with bucks and looking to keep their hobby and business churning, turning and burning. Of course, there were still those who were sitting on 10 oz. silver bars at \$350 and Krugerrands at \$850 (you may insert your own amounts here if the shoe fits). The number I remember most was \$25,000 a bag for silver coin being offered by Bache & Co. who were trying to salvage some credibility after the silver debacle, and got some true optimists to buy at that level. The coin dealers whose taxes I had been preparing for the past few years were securing their futures with things like CDs (not the music type) and real estate, after having spent two or three intense years smashing sterling silver candlesticks and gold teeth with sledge hammers to clear away the plaster and plastic before stuffing all that precious metal into five gallon cans to ship to New York or elsewhere. Yes, we called ourselves coin dealers then, but most had no time to actually deal in coins.

One digression, if you permit, although there were many, was a story about Joel Coen, who had a shop in Manhattan, which was the last stop for much precious metal before it made its way to the smelter. It was said by those who drove their wares to the city that one would have to climb over a three-foot deep pile of bags of silver to get to the counter. There are many more stories out there, and the names will be changed to protect the innocent and the guilty. Maybe a story someday about some of the unbelievable, fantastic, fortunate, unfortunate, and laughable occurrences of the Great Silver and Gold Melt, with cheers or jeers to the Hunt Brothers.

All of this activity resembled work, and many of us longed to return to coins for the sake of coins. Well, while wandering around this show, my friend Phil Aftoora, who is a consummate numismatist in the foreign coin pursuit as well as being the admissions director of the Case-Western Reserve Dental School, chose to introduce me to Ken Lowe, whom he knew to be pursuing the same interest as I was, that of numismatic literature. It gets fuzzy from here, but almost as if by osmosis, we sucked up the entire inventory of Jim Lacrosse of Brighton, Michigan, who had informed me at the Michigan State Numismatic Society show in Dearborn that he planned to exit the business. We rolled back home with a large van of literature, much of which Jim had obtained from Joe Lepszyk, and his address list. Jim said he was selling because he developed an allergy to mold

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The cover of the first Money Tree numismatic literature sale which was held on July 11, 1987.

spores. I think he was right, because I sneeze twice every time I open a book in my library.

Suddenly my office basement was piled high with literature, and Ken started in to work. We issued a couple of fixed price lists, which worked out well, so he charged up the old Apple computer, and we ventured into our first mail bid sale, to be followed by many more. Somewhere in that timeframe, Ken received an invitation from Henry and Emery May Norweb to dine at their mansion, along with several others of us who were ANS members. The story, so candidly written by Ken, about this evening can be found the first issue of *Out on a Limb*, which we published in 1987.¹ One quick aside from me, it was the only time in my life that my dinner was tinkled in by a little silver bell in the hand of Mrs. Norweb. You really had to be there.

Somewhere along the way, we realized we had too many books, and didn't know where half of them were. More precisely, I didn't know where any were, Ken knew where they all were, so that equals one-half. Out of the blue, Ken came up with an idea. Next thing I knew, John Burns had bought the basement, a happening that I would like to have occur again. Ken brought three big football players from Euclid High School to do the grunt work, and soon there were 200 banker boxes less than the day before. It wasn't long, however, before both the basement and second floor were filled to capacity. That was 1993. John says he is now suffering from the same malady.

Reluctantly, we fast-forward to February 23, 1998. I was in my office, and received a call from a hospital on the East side asking whether Ken had any relatives I could contact. They wouldn't talk to me, but it wasn't too difficult to assume that something critical was going on. My wife and I jumped in the car and took off for the other side of town. Halfway there, my cell phone rang. It was my assistant, Debbie, who relayed a message from the Euclid police that Ken had died and would we come get his cat — Cordy. It was a very dismal day.

Our friends David and Sherry Sklow were in process of moving here from Delaware so that we could expand the horizons of the Money Tree. Subsequently they did, and we had two more sales before David chose to move to Florida. One of those sales, of course, was the dispersal of Ken's library. Dave and Sherry now reside in Colorado Springs, where he is a member of the ANA team as an historian who ultimately will be able to chronicle the ANA membership story as has never been done before.

The numismatic literature hobby certainly had a golden age during Ken's lifetime, as we recall the involvement and contributions of Armand Champa, John Bergman, Frank Katen, Jack Collins, Frank

¹ K. Lowe, "An Evening with the Norwebs or What Are Two Nice Boys Like You Doing in a Place Like This?" *Out on a Limb* 1/1 (1987), pp. 5-9.

Van Zandt and all the others living and passed on who gathered together from show to show and added so much to the literature hobby. I would love to be able to feel that same energy once again.

Ken added a fair amount of comic relief to his writings. Once, in a moment of inspired comic reflection, he grabbed a piece of scrap paper and sketched out a list of inevitable absolutes. I recently found that list among his papers. These are 10 statements which he would have liked to carve in stone, had he been given a chance to do so. Perhaps in a future issue of *The Asylum* we can print these items under the heading of What He Said and What He Really Meant. I think he would have liked that.

It was an interesting and rewarding 15 years and I certainly feel privileged to have been able to be a continuing part of it. The Numismatic Bibliomania Society has certainly been the glue that has held the book lovers together for 25 years and I, for one, will try to be around for the next 25 years.

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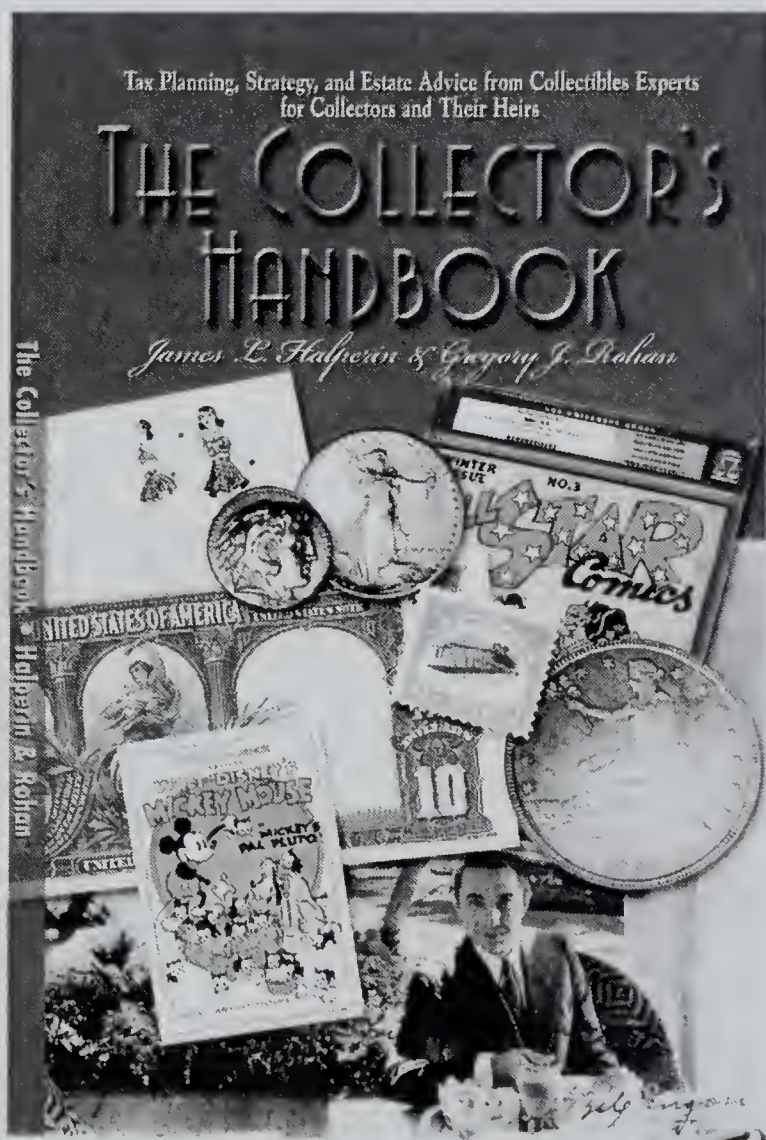
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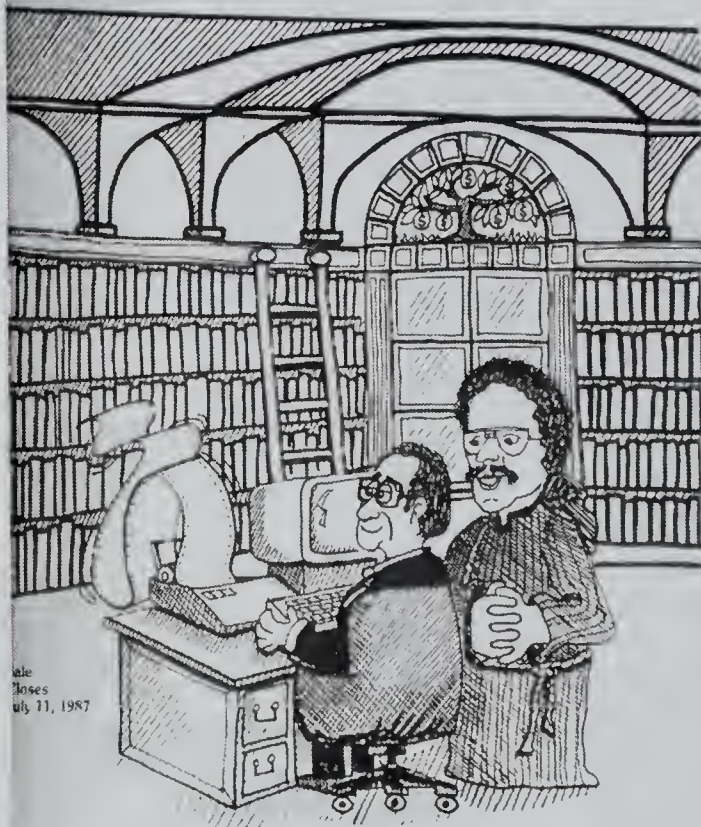
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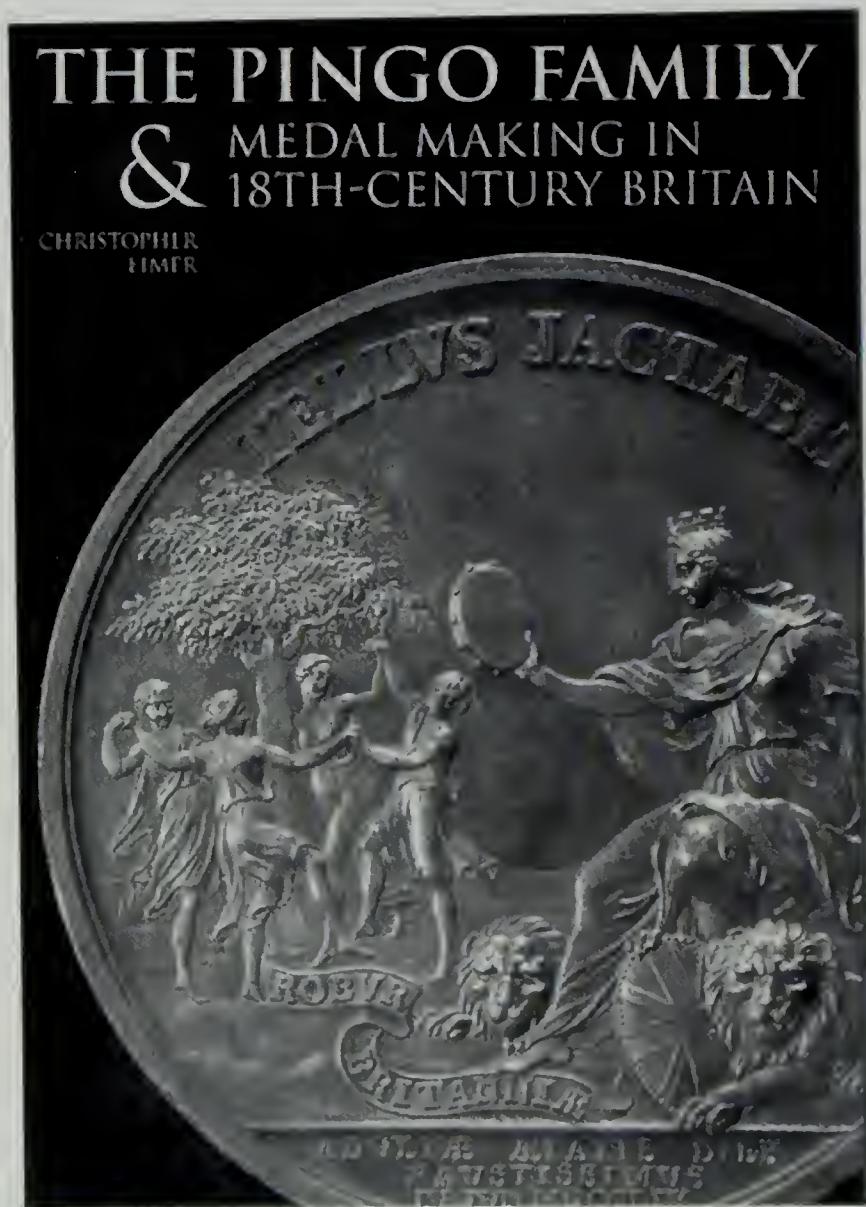
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